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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 003126

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SUBJECT: GOJ REQUESTS INVESTIGATION OF ATTACK AGAINST
JORDANIANS IN IRAQ

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires David Hale for Reasons 1.5 (b), (d)

1. (U) On April 20, post received via fax a diplomatic note from the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding an attack on two Jordanian citizens, one of whom was killed, on April 14 while driving a vehicle in Iraq. (A translation of the note in English is provided below in paragraph four.) According to the note, relatives of the victim and others have claimed that the car was targeted and attacked by an American military plane. Accordingly, the GOJ is requesting that the Embassy ask relevant U.S. authorities to immediately investigate this incident and to determine what role coalition forces may have played.

2. (U) After receiving the diplomatic note, post forwarded April 21 an English language translation via e-mail to Colonel David Sabal, CPA Deputy Chief of Staff in Baghdad, as well as to Lt. Colonel Laura Shally, Assistant to CPA Chief of Staff Ambassador Stephen Smith. Post requested that CPA provide any information on the incident to the Embassy for forwarding to the GOJ. The note was also passed to the Iraq Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (HACC) at the Embassy for direct coordination with coalition military forces. Charge discussed this matter April 21 with Omar Al Rifai, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and promised to share all relevant information with the MFA.

3. (C) COMMENT: News of the April 14 attack generated considerable negative publicity in the Jordanian press, reinforcing public opposition to the U.S. military occupation of Iraq. To address this sentiment, an MFA "source" informed the press that it had delivered a diplomatic note to the Embassy "demanding more information" about the incident and the motives behind it. Post would appreciate any follow-up information that U.S. authorities in Iraq could provide. End comment.

4. (U) The translated text of the diplomatic note is as follows:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extends its greetings to the Embassy of the United States of America in Amman.

Reference is here made to the shooting that took place in a car that was carrying Jordanian nationals Faleh Khader Abu Al Sheikh Al Zu'bi and Qasem Mohammed Oweid Abdulrazzaq on the fast road (Al Ramadi) in Iraq on April 14, 2004, which resulted in the death of the first man and injuries in the second.

The Ministry would appreciate if the Embassy could kindly ask the concerned American authorities to investigate this accident in the absence of justifications for, or clarifications of, what happened by coalition forces in light of what has been said by relatives of the victims and letters from some popular and unions' activists to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the reason for this accident was that the car they were using was targeted by an American military plane.

The Ministry would also like to inform the Embassy and through it to the U.S. Government that the Jordanian nationals are civilians in Iraq doing business, and that Mr. Abu Sheikh is a lawyer, appointed by the Jordanian Lawyers Association.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey its highest appreciation and respect to the Embassy of the United States of America.

5. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

Please visit Embassy Amman's classified web site at <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman/> or through the Department of State's SIPRNET site.
HALE